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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/593,061	02/12/2007	Hisashi Ohashi	SON-3206	6470
23353 7590 04/27/2010 RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC LION BUILDING 1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
EXAMINER				
SONG, DAHEHO				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/593,061

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, HISASHI

Examiner

DAEHO D. SONG

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Applicant's Response

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/02/2010 has been entered.

In Applicant's Response to RCE dated 02/02/2010, Applicant amended Claims 1, 3, 6, 7-8, 11 and 12, and argued against all rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 11/13/2009.

In light of Applicant's amendments and remarks, the rejections of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112 are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. (hereinafter Matsumoto): U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0007487 in view of Takagi et al. (hereinafter Takagi): U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0112248.

Claim 1:

Matsumoto expressly teaches:

Claim 1. An electronic device having a display panel and a plurality of keys to which desired functions can be assigned, comprising:

display means for causing display of a plurality of items on the display panel (fig. 10; [0014]: displaying multiple items on the display);

means for receiving a selection of a desired item which is selected from the plurality of items (fig. 10; [0014]: selecting a item from the list of items); after which the display means causing display of a setting screen corresponding to the selected desired item (fig. 10; [0014]: displaying a setting menu corresponding to the selected item); and

assigning means for assigning the selected desired item to one of the plurality of keys using the setting screen, wherein at least one of plurality of keys is assigned a function for displaying the setting screen (figs. 10-11; [0014] [0062]-[0066]: assigning the desired operation function to a function key); and

Matsumoto fails to expressly disclose:

one of the plurality of keys is assigned one of two paired functions.

Takagi expressly teaches:

one of the plurality of keys is assigned one of two paired functions (fig. 3; [0035]: assigning a key to paired functions under selecting operation mode, such as Beginner Mode's "on" and "off" represent paired function. Similarly, Voice Output's "stereo" and "surround" represent paired functions).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Matsumoto, to include: *one of the plurality of keys is assigned one of two paired functions*, for the purpose of providing a way of assigning user's selection to operation mode, as taught in Takagi.

Claim 2. The electronic device as set forth in claim 1, wherein when one of two paired functions is assigned to one of the plurality of keys, a message which prompts a user to assign the other of the two paired functions to the key appears ([0068]: assigning an operation function to a key manually by means of user's selection of menu item).

Claim 3. The electronic device as set forth in claim 1, wherein when one of two paired functions is assigned to one of the plurality of keys, the other of the paired functions is automatically assigned to the key ([0068]: assigning an operation function to a key automatically by means of automatic performance of registration operation).

Claim 4. The electronic device as set forth in claim 1, wherein a sequence of operations that a user has preformed are stored and stored operations are assigned to one of the plurality of keys ([0064][0065]: registration operation in memory corresponding to a designated function key).

Claim 5. The electronic device as set forth in claim 1, wherein functions assigned to two keys of the plurality of keys are changed with each other ([0066]: interchangeable function keys).

Claim 6. An electronic device having a display panel and a plurality of keys to which desired functions can be assigned, comprising:
display means for causing display of a plurality of items on the display panel (fig. 10; [0014]: displaying multiple items on the display);
means for receiving a selection of a desired item which is selected from the plurality of items (fig. 10; [0014]: selecting a item from the list of items); after which
the display means causing display of a setting screen corresponding to the selected desired item (fig. 10; [0014]: displaying a setting menu corresponding to the selected item); and
assigning means for assigning the selected desired item to one of the plurality of keys using the setting screen, wherein at least one of plurality of keys is assigned a function

for displaying the setting screen (figs. 10-11; [0014] [0062]-[0066]: assigning the desired operation function to a function key); and

Matsumoto fails to expressly disclose:

one of the plurality of keys is assigned one of two paired functions.

Takagi expressly teaches:

one of the plurality of keys is assigned one of two paired functions (fig. 3: assigning a key to paired functions under selecting operation mode, such as Beginner Mode's "on" and "off" represent paired function. Similarly, Voice Output's "stereo" and "surround" represent paired functions).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Matsumoto, to include: *one of the plurality of keys is assigned one of two paired functions*, for the purpose of providing a way of assigning user's selection to operation mode, as taught in Takagi.

Matsumoto fails to expressly disclose:

displaying a second setting screen for items that are not included in the plurality of items when the selected desired item is assigned to said one of the plurality of keys.

Takagi expressly teaches:

displaying a second setting screen for items that are not included in the plurality of items when the selected desired item is assigned to said one of the plurality of keys (fig. 7; [0038]-[0040]: displaying a second setting screen for channel numbers, which are not included in operation mode selection items, by means of assigning the entered key number to the current channel).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Matsumoto, to include: *displaying a second setting screen for items that are not included in the plurality of items when the selected desired item is assigned to said one of the plurality of keys*, for the purpose of providing a way of assigning user's selection to channel mode, as taught in Takagi.

Claims 7-10:

The subject matter recited in Claims 7-10 corresponds to the subject matter recited in Claims 2-5, respectively. Thus Matsumoto, in view of Takagi, discloses every limitation of Claims 7-10, as indicated in the above rejections for Claims 2-5.

Claims 11-12:

The subject matter recited in Claims 11-12 corresponds to the subject matter recited in Claims 1 and 6, respectively. Thus Matsumoto, in view of Takagi, discloses every limitation of Claims 11-12, as indicated in the above rejections for Claims 1 and 6.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments against the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to Claims 1-12 have been considered, but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Takagi fails to disclose that one of the plurality of keys is assigned one of two paired functions.

The examiner disagrees.

As indicated in the above rejection for Claim 1, Takagi **clearly** teaches that one of the plurality of keys is assigned to paired functions under selecting operation mode, such as **Beginner Mode's "on" and "off" represent paired function**. Similarly, **Voice Output's "stereo" and "surround" represent paired functions**, and **V Chip's "on" and "off" represent paired function**, and so on (see fig. 3; [0035]).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAEHO D. SONG whose telephone number is (571)272-7524. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30-5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Bashore can be reached on 5712724088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daeho D Song/

Examiner, Art Unit 2175

/William L. Bashore/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2175